

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

October 4, 2011

Thirty years ago, some of the earliest cases of what later become known as AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, were reported to the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Within two years, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus or HIV was identified as the causative agent.

Since then HIV infections have been diagnosed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Fortunately, HIV is no longer inevitably fatal. Scientific progress in immunology and other medical areas now allows people with HIV to live longer, enjoy healthier lives and be less infectious to others.

However, the health-care challenges posed by the HIV/AIDS epidemic have not yet ended.

In the County of Los Angeles, approximately 62,800 people are living with the disease, but 21.5 percent are unaware of their infection. African-Americans and Latinos, especially women, continue to make up a disproportionate number of the newly diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases. The HIV diagnosis rate for African-American women is 19 times that of white women, an alarming disparity.

The County's Office of AIDS Programs and Policy has been a leader in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic through a wide range of community-based organizations. But cutbacks in government funding have had a negative impact on the local groups.

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

AIDS Project Los Angeles once again is sponsoring the annual AIDS Walk Los Angeles, a major fundraiser for programs providing direct services to people living with AIDS/HIV in the County. The 27th annual walk will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2011, in West Hollywood.

Last year County employees, led by the Department of Child Support Services, donated more than \$32,300 to the AIDS Walk. The County Coalition team enjoys "Gold Team" status.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors proclaim Sunday, October 16, 2011 as "AIDS Walk Los Angeles Day," and encourage County employees and others in the community to support this worthwhile fundraising activity.

JB s:\AIDS Walk LA